



March 21, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation in Dkt. Nos. GN 13-5, GN 12-353, GN 12-228, GN 09-191, GN 09-51, WC 11-42, WC 10-90, WC 05-337, WC 07-135, WC 07-52, WC 03-109, CC 02-6, CC 01-92, CC 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 19, 2013 Jessica González of the National Hispanic Media Coalition and representatives of the National Rural Assembly, including Edyael Casaperalta of the Rural Broadband Policy Group, Whitney Kimball Coe of Center for Rural Strategies, Kathleen Moxon of Redwood Coast Rural Action and Kim Phinney of YouthBuild USA, met with Wireline Competition Bureau officials, including Trent Harkrader, Kim Scardino, Tim Stelzig, Lisa Hone and Regina Brown.

National Rural Assembly representatives advocated for maintaining access to affordable and reliable voice services, including plain old telephone service. They described the challenges of many rural Americans that do not have access to wireless and broadband services, and that those challenges are exacerbated for poor, rural Americans. Finally, they encouraged the FCC officials to prevent telephone companies from discontinuing plain old telephone service, especially in areas that have no other means of communication.

Ms. Moxon added that current FCC broadband measurements are flawed to the extent that they count an area as “served” if only one household in the area has a broadband connection.

National Rural Assembly representatives then requested that E-rate funded schools and libraries be permitted to blast their wi fi signals off site, after hours. Ms. Casaperalta stated that this would help bring greater internet connectivity in poor and rural communities.

National Rural Assembly representatives shared the attached handouts with Wireline Competition Bureau officials. In sum, these handouts support: the Lifeline program, competition in the telecommunications ecosystem, universal broadband deployment, measures to increase affordable telephone and broadband service, municipal broadband networks, making Connect America Funds available to non-eligible telecommunications carriers, consumer protections and open internet principles.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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